**If you missed it...**

In a week when Tesla stunned the world by posting a fourth consecutive profitable quarter, this also happened:

- The Commerce Department reported that sales of new homes rose 33.8% in June, the second straight increase after two months when sales plunged due to lockdowns because of the coronavirus. The June gain pushed sales of new homes to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 757,000, but that is still roughly 20% below pre-pandemic levels.

- Delta Air Lines will provide at-home coronavirus tests for some employees and Southwest Airlines will tighten its rule on face masks by excluding exceptions to mask rules. Those moves come as airlines try to reassure passengers and their employees about safety during a pandemic that has made many people afraid to fly. Delta will expand coronavirus testing at its hub airports and provide at-home tests for its employees in Florida and Texas. Southwest will require all passengers older than 2 to wear masks.

- McDonald’s will be requiring customers to wear face coverings when entering its U.S. restaurants. The rule will go into effect Saturday. It sees compliance issues mask mandates recently, including Starbucks, Walmart, Target, Best Buy and Kohl’s.

- The New York Times agreed to buy Serial Productions, the company behind the hit podcast “Serial,” the paper’s latest move to broaden its digital journalism. The arrangement will allow Serial Productions to increase the number of shows it makes, said the Times, and run them alongside its other podcasts. The newspaper said it plans to promote the shows on its website, in its newsletters and through its other channels. The Times paid about $25 million for the company, according to a person with knowledge of the deal.

**Daily Briefing is compiled from San Francisco Chronicle staff and wire services. For past stories and links, subscribe to the Tech Chronicle newsletter at www.sfchronicle.com/newsletters/tech-chronicle. Twitter: @techchronicle**

---

**Business Report**

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE AND SFCHRONICLE.COM | Sunday, July 11, 2020 | Section D

---

**Pandemic puts workers’ comp in limbo**

With trials delayed, injured claimants struggle to get by

**By Chase DiFeliciantonio**

It was two years ago this month when Sintia Garcia found her fiancé and son had died.

The two were traveling down Interstate 5 from the family’s East Bay home to Santa Monica for a construction job when their vehicle collided with another car, killing them both.

The 2018 crash left Garcia grief-stricken but also with two children, including a small son whose father was her fiancé, that she now had to provide for. After the insurance carrier denied Garcia’s workers’ compensation claim seeking death benefits, her lawyer, Mark Vickness, spent two years getting a trial date to cross the fight with a division of the Department of Industrial Relations, which oversees such disputes.

The pandemic had other plans. Garcia’s original April trial date was postponed because of the coronavirus. It is one of hundreds of contested workers’ comp cases the state agency has been unable to handle remotely.

Compensation continues on D3

---

**Biotech firm rebounds to combat coronavirus**

By J.D. Morris

Want to find the coronavirus’ infamous spike protein that allows it to latch on to human cells? Look no further than Atum, a 17-year-old Newark candidates.

Atum, a 17-year-old Newark students.

Atum’s operations, given that most of the company’s employees were working in non-virus areas and some appeared to be shutting down.

“When the first publicly reported COVID-19 cases arose in the United States several months ago, Atum co-founder Claes Gustafsson in the lab where the company specializes in making synthetic genes and proteins.

By Anna Kramer

Anyone in California is supposed to wear a mask these days — in stores, on sidewalks, when socializing with others.

But many don’t.

And that’s a problem. Lack of masks and social distancing are key reasons, experts say, that California is experiencing a surge in coronavirus cases. Though data are sparse, about 64% of Californians reported using masks consistently in a Axios/Jpus poll conducted June 19–21, a few or no masks continue on D4
Biotech firm rebouts to combat coronavirus

**Shipt**

**DILBERT**

**EXTENDING JOBSLESS, HEALTH CARE BENEFITS**

**PRODUCT**

**TUBES CONTAIN DNA INFUSED INTO BACTERIA AT THE Newark**